

High Holidays 5761

By now, all current CSZ members should have received a packet of High Holiday information in the mail. If you have not received your packet, please contact the synagogue office as soon as possible.

All High Holiday services, with the exception of second day Rosh Hashanah, will be held at the Herbst Theater in the San Francisco War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street. Second day Rosh Hashanah services, on Sunday, October 1, will be held at our building on Dolores Street.

Ticket Policy

Tickets will be required for the Rosh Hashanah evening service on Friday, September 29; for the Kol Nidre (Yom Kippur evening) service on Sunday, October 8; and for the Yizkor/Neilah (concluding) service of Yom Kippur on Monday, October 9. We will not be requiring tickets for any other services, including morning services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. As we have done for the past several years, we will automatically provide tickets to members in good standing. Details regarding tickets and order forms for guest tickets can be obtained from the CSZ office.

Onegs and Break Fast

Please join us for an oneg following Erev Rosh Hashanah services on Friday, September 29. Instead of an oneg after Rosh Hashanah morning services, bring a bag lunch and join us at Crissy Field for a Seudat Mitzvah Picnic prior to our Tashlich service (see details above). Services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah will also be followed by an oneg. There will be a community Break Fast at the conclusion of Neilah, the final service on Yom Kippur.

Tashlich

Tashlich is the symbolic casting away of one's sins, performed by throwing breadcrumbs into running water. Tashlich will take place at Crissy Field Beach on Sunday, September 30, following Rosh Hashanah morning services. We will begin approximately one hour after the end of services, so feel free to change into comfortable clothes, grab a picnic lunch and meet us by the water. The service will be led by Rabbi Camille Angel and Bill Jones.

5761 Holiday Schedule

Selichot	
<i>Saturday, September 23</i>	<i>7 pm</i>
Annual Cemetery Visit	
<i>Sunday, September 24</i>	<i>10 am</i>
Erev Rosh Hashanah	
<i>Friday, September 29</i>	<i>7:30 pm</i>
First Day Rosh Hashanah	
<i>Saturday, September 30</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>
Second Day Rosh Hashanah	
<i>Sunday, October 1</i>	<i>9:30 pm</i>
Kol Nidre	
<i>Sunday, October 8</i>	<i>7:30 pm</i>
Yom Kippur	
<i>Monday, October 9</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>
Sukkot	
<i>Friday & Saturday October 14 & 15</i>	
Simchat Torah	
<i>Friday & Saturday, October 21 & 22</i>	

Children's High Holiday Programming:

In conjunction with High Holiday Services at the Herbst Theater, CSZ will be offering age-appropriate programming and Jewish childcare staffed by professional, loving caretakers as well as member volunteers. Programming and childcare will be available for babies who are able to sit up by themselves, toddlers and children through age 13. In order to insure proper staffing levels, all children must be pre-registered by September 15. For more information, please call Jeni Markowitz or David Shneer (575-4962).

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Repairing the World - Tikkun Olam



Twice a year, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has the honor of sponsoring a lunch for a group of Jewish elderly, most of whom live alone in the

Tenderloin. This mitzvah includes serving food, sharing in the brachot and shmoozing with the guests. Start off the new year with CSZ's Social Action Committee at this pre-Rosh Hashanah event. Please meet at the North of Market Senior Center, 333 Turk, 2nd floor, on Friday, September 22, 1 pm. To RSVP, call Allan Berenstein (863-8033) or Dahlia Gross (575-4961).



Welcome Rabbi Camille Angel!

Rabbi Camille Angel, her partner Karen Segal and their two cats have arrived from New York to join our congregation. Rabbi Angel's first day in the office will be August 28, her first time on the bimah will be September 1, and her first column is on page 2. Please join us in making her feel welcome.

Shalom Sha'ar Zahav - Hello and Peace To You



Rabbi Angel

As Karen and I begin to settle into our new home (thanks to Deborah Udin and the CSZ Va'ad!) we look forward to greeting you and getting to know you. Our hope is that in the weeks and months ahead, we will have many and various opportunities to slowly begin to nourish a relationship built on mutual trust, respect and a healthy curiosity for one another's life stories. We have already felt warmly welcomed and taken care of by the Search Committee, the Va'ad and leadership, as well as the CSZ staff. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you.

Hineni – Here I am. For Jews
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President's Column

World Congress Report



David Gellman

The newly renamed World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Jews held its biennial conference in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, the last weekend in July, under the sponsorship of New Jersey's Lesbian & Gay Havurah. I was privileged, along with six other Sha'ar Zahav members, to join over 200 Jews from North America, Europe, Australia and the Middle East, in a unique combination of learning, prayer and, above all, networking.

Our crowd was entertained by the New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus and CSZ's own Lisa Geduldig, entranced by the poetry of Lesléa Newman, and inspired by the presence of Rabbi Alexander Schindler, past president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and a pathmaker in the struggle for gay rights in the Reform movement, along with the leading advocate for the acceptance of gay relationships in the Conservative movement, Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff.

We met in intimate seminar sessions to consider "Coming Out After Marriage," "Bi Spirit," "Chicken Soup & Minestrone: Interfaith Relationships," "Child Rearing" (led by our own Ora Prochovnick), "Aging to Perfection," "LeatherJews" and other diverse topics. We attended our choice of Conservative, Reform, Orthodox or Reconstruct-

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Preparing for the High Holidays

Many of us feel discouraged or baffled by the spiritual challenge of preparing for the High Holidays. Rabbi Camille Angel is conducting a two-part High Holiday workshop to help us get ready for this important season:

Session I: Symbols of the High Holidays

Tuesday, September 12, 7 pm

Why do we blow the shofar? What's the origin of tashlich, the ceremony of throwing sins into the sea? Why do we fast on Yom Kippur?

Session II: The Deeper Meaning of the Season – Study Session and Selichot Service

Saturday September 23, 7 pm

What is unique to the Days of Awe, and how can we prepare for them? What do the sages say about repentance and atonement (teshuvah)? What are some concrete ways we can engage in taking an inventory of our soul (cheshbon hanefesh)? This session will help us connect with the words and prayers we use during the High Holidays and will lead directly into the Selichot services, led by Rabbi Angel and Eileen Levy.

This series is co-sponsored by the CSZ Adult Education and Membership committees and is open to members and non-members at no charge. Please join us for one or both sessions. RSVP to CSZ Program Director Dahlia Gross (575-4961).

CSZ Welcomes Jennifer Markowitz



Congregation Sha'ar Zahav welcomes Jennifer Markowitz to her new position as Family Educator. Jennifer begins her new position after four years as a Kadi-mah teacher. Last year, Jennifer was awarded a fellowship by the San Fran-

cisco Bureau of Jewish Education to study to become a Family Educator under the direction of Dr. Vicky Kellman.

Jennifer is a Bay Area native, an alumna of Livnot U L'hibanot and Project Otzma Israel Studies, and has been a Jewish educator for the past ten years. As Sha'ar Zahav's Family Educator, Jennifer will share her talents as an artist and storyteller. She will serve as a resource for CSZ families striving to bridge Judaism in the home and Judaism in the synagogue.

Jennifer is looking forward to expanding her role within the CSZ community and sharing her energy and enthusiasm. Please welcome Jennifer to her new role as she deepens her connection to our congregation. Stop by and say hello!

Food Drive

One of the reasons we fast on Yom Kippur is to remind ourselves of the hunger of those in need. As we have done in past years, CSZ will collect nonperishable food at Kol Nidre and until 11 am on Yom Kippur. Please bring a bag of food items as part of your Yom Kippur observance. The preferred product list includes: tuna in water, canned beef stew, chili, fruit, vegetables or pasta sauce; boxed macaroni and cheese; peanut butter in plastic containers; Gatorade or similar sport drink in plastic bottles; 100% juice in plastic containers, cans or boxes; supplement bars, soy or rice milk in aseptic packages; and rice or pasta in one pound packages.

Begin the New Year with a Mitzvah!

CSZ's High Holiday services take place as the result of an inordinate amount of time and effort on the part of our staff and a large cadre of dedicated volunteers. Please consider enhancing your observance of the holidays by volunteering, even if only for one hour. There are many enjoyable volunteer opportunities in the areas of logistics, ushering, child care, onegs and break fast. Please contact the CSZ office for more information or to sign up.

L'Shana Tova Tikatayvu!

Rosh Hashanah - Making Peace with The King

by Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee

Over 2,000 years ago, the rabbis who designed the traditional formula for beginning a bracha had many choices. They could have thanked the Source of Being for opportunities to enrich human life. Instead, in language meaningful to their age, they thanked the King of the Universe for making us holy with commandments.

Our ancestors found it comforting and strengthening, when mortal kings acted all too often as their enemies, to claim a tie of mutual loyalty with the universal and immortal Ruler. Many modern Jews, however, find this language archaic and alienating. For us, the metaphor lacks the power to inspire.

On Rosh Hashanah, we use a liturgy shot

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June Va'ad Minutes

Lisa Katz delivered the d'var torah on a portion which dealt with expulsion of various persons. She was struck by the payments to the priest included in the punishment of those admitting to having stolen. She suggested that we may ponder our own wrongs or "thefts" and look at ways that we might acknowledge them through our own kind of "sacred payments."

The minutes of the May Va'ad meeting were adjusted and unanimously approved.

Joe Hample and Marc Wernick presented a Membership Committee proposal which focuses on using the coming High Holidays to try several new programs aimed at attracting new members. An Open House on August 26 and the High Holiday Ritual Class are excellent opportunities to promote these new programs. Additionally, the Membership Committee hopes to increase personal contact with visitors in the coming months. It was determined that the committee should fine tune the proposal in consultation with the Finance Committee and present a final proposal to the Va'ad in July. Thanks and appreciation were offered to Joe and Marc. Four new households were unanimously approved for membership.

Susan Tubbesing and Lea Salem presented the Disaster & Emergency Response Procedures proposal. The proposal discusses crisis management responsibilities, security plans, evacuation procedures, earthquake preparedness, provisions, supplies and training. Discussion ensued with regard to specifics of the proposal and in regard to balancing safety and security with being a welcoming congregation. There was much appreciation for the work done so far by Susan, Sarah Nathe, Rachel Maclachlan and our contacts in the SFPD.

Next steps include incorporating suggested revisions and creating a condensed version of this plan.

Arthur Slepian presented the Treasurer's Report. At the end of April we expected to end the fiscal year with a surplus. The Capital Campaign also ended the month ahead. Arthur concluded his report by praising the work of the Finance Committee. He is pleased at the information that the Va'ad has about the financial health of the congregation, aware of the challenges ahead and happy to see responses to those from Membership, Fundraising and other groups. Arthur is glad to be turning the reins over to James Carlson. He received a standing ovation in appreciation of his excellent work.

Susan Unger presented a two-part proposal to raise \$100,000 for the production of the new Friday night prayerbook. The Siddur Committee will consider the proposal and return to the Va'ad. The Va'ad appreciated Susan for her concise and complete proposal.

Howard Herman and David Shneer presented the Education Report. Howard clarified that the charge of the CEB does include all aspects of children's education from preschool to youth. All of the Kadimah teaching staff will be returning in the coming year. David also outlined the Family Holiday Program for families who are not interested in weekly Kadimah for their children. The Family Educator will concentrate on creating an even more vibrant Family Holiday Program with particular outreach to non-Kadimah families. In production is a Children's Education Guide which will include information about this program in addition to Kadimah, Baby Havurah, Tot Shabbat and high school programs with which we are affiliated.

David Gellman presented the President's Report. There will be a joint meeting in August between the Va'ad and the Revenue Task Force. He expressed thanks to outgoing Va'ad

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Great Books

Are you interested in learning more about Jewish texts and literature? If so, join us at CSZ's Great Books class. This class focuses on different aspects of Jewish study, ranging from Mishnah to Yiddish Tales. The class will encourage you to explore Jewish writings and further understand the art of study which has been embraced by Jewish communities for centuries. This is an ongoing class facilitated each month by a different instructor. Please come by and check it out.

This Month:

Tell Me A Riddle by Tillie Olsen

Facilitated by CSZ member Lisa Ochs

September 18, 7:30 pm

Tillie Olsen is a writer, teacher, left-wing activist and daughter of Eastern European parents committed to socialist and Jewish enlightenment values. Much of her work reflects the discrimination and marginalization she felt growing up in Omaha, Nebraska. In the four short stories of *Tell Me a Riddle*, Olsen explores themes of family, community, mourning, friendship, aging and love.

East Bay Services

Friday, September 15, 8:15 pm

Location undetermined at print time.

Call the synagogue office
or Ida Kuluk (510/530-4673) for details.

Break Bread on Shabbat

The Membership Committee warmly invites you to an informal pre-Shabbat dinner at one of the local eateries on Friday, September 15 at 6:15 pm (and every third Friday of the months following). This is a great way for new and prospective members, and old members for that matter, to "break bread" and get to know members of the community on a more personal level. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the synagogue office (861-6932 or office@shaarzahav.org), Joe Hample (621-7675; hamplej@wellsfargo.com) or Marc Wernick (928-7883; mhwernick@aol.com).



Class begins in October in San Francisco

Introduction to Judaism

Designed Especially For:

Those who Once Knew and Forgot...

Those who Always Wanted to Know...

Born Jews and Jews by Choice...

Non-Jews who are a Part of a Jewish Family...

Non-Jews Who May Be Thinking About Conversion...

Anyone, Jewish or Non-Jewish, Who is Simply Curious...

Temple Members and Non-Temple Members...

Location	Dates	Time
Oakland/Berkeley	Sept. 13, 2000 - Feb. 21, 2001	Tuesdays, 7:15-9:00pm
San Francisco		
Congregation Emanu-El	Oct. 5, 2000 - Jan. 18, 2001	Thursdays, 7:00-8:45pm
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav	Feb. 1, 2001 - May 10, 2001	Thursdays, 7:00-8:45pm

Tuition

\$185 for individual or couple, including the cost of books

\$120 for dues-paying members of a UAHC affiliated congregation

Registration is required. Please contact Maggie Sontag, Introduction to Judaism Registrar, at (415)392-7080, ext. 17

Gay Iz Mir Rocks at the Jewish Home

On July 9, well over 50 residents of the Jewish Home for the Aged were treated to a fabulously raucous klezmer concert performed by CSZ's Gay Iz Mir. Several non-band members also attended the concert to help make it a festive Sha'ar Zahav event. It was wonderful to watch residents tapping their feet, clapping their hands and shouting out in appreciation of the music. Several of the residents got up and danced with staff members and our volunteers. The music was loud and lively and the residents really loved it. For many residents, the music brought back fond memories of their childhood.

Many thanks go to the members of Gay

Iz Mir: Ora Prochovnick, Judy Graboyes, Dev Felder Noily, Julie Walcer, Ellie Cohen, Corey Weinstein and Jeff Friedman. Thanks also to our volunteers who danced, visited with residents, helped to get residents back to their rooms after the concert and contributed overall to the wonderfulness of the event: Simma Lieberman, Avi Lieberman, Ilana Bernstein, Desmond Bernstein, Sara Felder Noily, Jesse Felder Noily, Rena Frantz, Tsipora Prochovnick and Shayna Prochovnick. Thanks also to Tiela Chalmers for helping to arrange the performance. Finally, thanks to our wonderful audience: the staff and residents of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Greg Albert
Wayne Bender
Greg Eichler
Nicole Grace
Rose Mallia
Craig Shear

We are happy to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$36/year.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

- *Chair and Editorial Coordinator:* Brian Jersky
- *Layout Coordinator:* Rose Katz
- *Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Judith Cohen, Sarah Goodman, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Sarah Nathe, Kerri Schiff, Karen Schiller
- *Photography:* Michael Bettinger
- *Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- *Design and Layout:* Kerri Schiff
- *Printing:* Genesis Printing & Graphics
- *Distribution:* Mail It Right

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

September 2000 Volume 23, Issue 12.



June Va'ad Minutes

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members Ellie Cohen, Sue Bojdak and Rob Tat for all their work. He once again acknowledged departing Treasurer Arthur Slepian and Va'ad members Sarita Groisser and Robin Leonard.

Lea Salem presented the Adminis-

trator's Report. The required signage has been installed. Acoustical panels for the Sanctuary are coming soon. Rabbi Angel's first night on the bimah will be September 1. The office equipment is in need of attention and a wish list will be created that could be circulated to potential donors.

July Va'ad Minutes

President David Gellman opened the meeting and welcomed new Va'ad members and officers. Lyssa Friedman then led the d'var torah. Other Va'ad members contributed their thoughts on Daniel Chesir's drash from the installation service, which appropriately addressed the theme of Jewish leadership.

Past presidents Paul Cohen and Irene Ogus led a very helpful orientation session for new Va'ad members. They discussed CSZ's consensus-building decision-making process, and the importance of listening to, and learning from, those with whom you don't necessarily see eye-to-eye. Paul also underscored how process and dissenting opinions matter in our form of leadership, so that even those outvoted on particular issues have the opportunity to voice their opinions and feel included in outcomes.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation from the Membership Committee on proposed new membership programs. The Introductory Membership (\$75) would extend full benefits of membership from August 1 until December 31 to new members. It is hoped that after December these individuals would convert to regular members. The Generation Aleph membership offers half-price membership for the first year to any new adult member under the age of thirty, or a discounted household membership if one person in the household is under thirty. A third program, the Explorer Package,

would offer those buying High Holiday tickets a six-month subscription to the *Jewish Gaily Forward* for a price of \$18. These proposals were approved by the Va'ad after a discussion of the issues, with the understanding that the committee will be monitoring the results of the programs and reporting back to the Va'ad. There were thanks from around the room for the work in creating and refining these proposals.

Ami Zusman then led a short discussion of Va'ad greeter responsibilities. A sign-up sheet was circulated to plan for greeting at future services.

Treasurer James Carlson gave a review of the synagogue's need for increased revenues, and a proposal to increase High Holiday ticket prices for nonmembers. The proposal passed and the Va'ad acknowledged James and his committee for the work they are doing.

The Treasurer's report led naturally to a presentation by Vice President Lisa Katz of the preliminary work of the Revenue Task Force. The Task Force is grappling with the philosophical issues underlying our financial needs and will present a report at the August Va'ad Meeting.

Because of time considerations, several items were tabled to a later meeting, including a discussion of a CSZ sexual harassment policy. The Va'ad then met in Executive Session.

Why Is This New Member Different From All Others? By Marc Wernick



This month the *Forward* visits with Claire Rappoport, a returning member to Sha'ar Zahav. Claire originally joined CSZ six years ago. "I was feeling hollow and empty. I wanted to explore Judaism further, but I had always rebelled against it," she explained.

"Although my parents are both Jewish, growing up we were culturally Jewish, yet being Jewish was never really fully integrated into our family life." Claire grew up in Pasadena. Small world, Rabbi Angel's father was her rabbi, and her father was Rabbi Angel's pediatrician.

"When I first came to CSZ, I was scared that someone would ask 'What do you want from synagogue?' and I would not have an answer," explained Claire. "Instead, I was welcomed with open arms." Over time, Sha'ar Zahav has become Claire's emotional and physical sanctuary. Whether attending Kabbalat Shabbat services, studying with the Rabbi or creating her own sense of "Bikkur Cholim" (visiting the sick), Claire has found the spiritual nurturing through Sha'ar Zahav that she needed to keep herself going.

"Sha'ar Zahav is a special place for me. It is just not another volunteer organization or a non-profit. It is sacred and special." Claire is professionally and personally involved in the AIDS service community. Whether it is helping to design clinical trials at UCSF, volunteering in the schools or helping a sick friend, Claire has a deep sense of tikkun olam

(repairing the world).

One thing that has made CSZ special for Claire has been the Adult Education program. Over the years, Claire has studied with Phyllis Mintzer. Recently, Claire was moved by a class taught by Rabbi Dorothy A. Richman on tkhines. "Tkhines were prayers written by women in a time when women were not allowed to pray in the traditional manner," explained Claire. "I was inspired to write one for a friend who was trying to become pregnant by artificial insemination. There was really nothing in the liturgy that melded the spiritual to new medical technologies. The process is so clinical on so many levels, but my friend needed guidance in a religious way. So, I wrote a tkhine which helped us be present in the moment. It was a beautiful process."

In keeping with the spirit of the upcoming High Holidays, Claire discusses some of her views on the season.

Q. What is your favorite part of the High Holiday liturgy or customs?

The physical rituals associated with repentance hold the most meaning for Claire. "On Yom Kippur, when I beat my chest during the Ashamnu, there is such power and poignancy. I am consciously focusing on the behaviors and attitudes for which I am atoning. There is an acknowledgement of 'being human,' recognizing the guilt of sin and vice, owning it and then letting it go. For me, it culminates when I beat my chest and the sin is released." Claire also mentioned the Tashlich service. "Throwing

bread into water, while a more external recognition of sin, has that same feeling of physical ritual, which is so meaningful for me."

Q. If you were to reconcile with the person who is your biggest enemy, how would you do it?

"I would first look into myself — what about the person or the situation is it that I can't forgive? I try to first forgive myself for whatever role I played in the situation. Over time, after I have had time to reflect, I tend to let things go."

Q. During the High Holidays, we read the story of how God tested Abraham through the sacrifice of Isaac. If you were to describe a way in which your soul has been tested, what would it be?

"My brother is into astrology and when he read my chart, the basic message was 'When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.' Claire explains how in the face of medical issues, she has learned to incorporate those issues into her daily life and have a complete life. Claire has looked inside, to friends and to family, for support and energy. "My mom was very hyper and genetics have given me a lot of energy. However, I have always had a strong sense of spirituality, even if it was not in the context of a formally organized Jewish household or experience." Recently, Judaism has provided a context for her spirituality, a home for her feelings.

Q. Turning to more mundane matters, how do you deal with the stress of your life and your work?

Claire relies on humor and achieving a personal connection to create "a bonding moment." Claire tells the story of a recent discussion at a clinical protocol meeting. "There was a lot of emotion in the room. People were losing a sense of why we came together. Finally, I turned to a Jewish doctor and quipped 'But was it good for the Jews?' And there was an instant connection, a laugh and tension broke. After the session, he confided, 'My grandmother said that all the time.' And I smiled and said, 'So did mine.'"

And Claire indeed is "good for all of us" here at CSZ. Please join me in wishing Claire a hearty "welcome home and l'shana tova."

Dreaming of Property

Buying your first home? • Buying commercial or investment property?
Buying a second vacation home? • Refinancing residential or commercial property?

Irene
Ogus



Deborah
Udin



Step 3

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Find the right property for you.
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Percentage of all commissions to CSZ

CSZ's Second Intergenerational Dialogue *by Elizabeth Wilson and Jo Hirschmann*

On Sunday, June 11, almost 40 CSZ community members gathered over bagels and coffee for the congregation's second Intergenerational Dialogue. The first dialogue was an opportunity to talk about how our gender and sexual identities vary across generations. In the second dialogue, we looked at how our relationship to Judaism varies across generations, and across our gender/sexual identities.

Community members shared personal stories in a moving exploration of our Jewish identities over the course of our lives. In a far-reaching conversation, we reflected on the constraints of growing up as male or female in a Jewish con-

text, feminism and Judaism, parents' expectations, alienating experiences, strengthening experiences, halacha, the interplay of sexual and Jewish identities, and raising children as Jewish. Participants shared memories and stories of the impact of the Holocaust on our families, internalized anti-Semitism, loss of belief in God, Israel/Palestine, conversion, raising children as Jewish, and the execution of the Rosenbergs.

Often at CSZ, we assume that we all share a similar history: we were raised Jewish, felt alienated from Judaism after we came out as GLBT, and returned to religion through Sha'ar Zahav. The dialogue, however, was a reminder of the

incredible diversity of Sha'ar Zahavniks' experiences. For many of us, the dialogue was an important opportunity to relate our personal identity struggles and questions to our Jewish lives. Many of us find it important to look at these issues in a specifically Jewish context, because we want to be able to interpret and connect different parts of our lives and identities with our Judaism.

We will continue to build the dialogue, communication and community on Yom Kippur, during the afternoon study sessions. The topic is still to be decided. If you are interested in helping to plan this session, please contact Rose Katz (647-3579).

Biblical Hebrew Fluency Group

Have you wanted to read Hebrew prayers more quickly? Do you have to laboriously sound out words with which you're not familiar when you read the Torah portion? For all of you who know Hebrew and want to improve your fluency, we are starting a Biblical Hebrew fluency reading group. The plan is simple. We will meet regularly and read the weekly Torah portion in Hebrew. If this idea intrigues you, call Dahlia (575-4961) or Laura (247-2409).

President's Column

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tionist Shabbat services, or simply minyan-hopped.

We listened raptly while Rabbi Schindler first praised the Reform movement for its courageous positions on GLBT rights and then bluntly criticized it for putting more emphasis on words than actions. We cheered Tel Aviv City Council member Michal Eden's announcement of her intention to become the first Israeli lesbian member of the Israeli Knesset. And of course, we ate and sang together.

These biennial conferences, and the smaller regional conferences that separate them, offer a rare and wonderful opportunity for us to share what we have learned, and connect with Jews from different continents, cultures, languages and traditions, all with a common bond of GLBT identity.

The next biennial conference will be in Israel in 2002, but prior to that we have been invited to consider co-sponsoring, along with our L.A. sister congregation, Beth Chayim Chadashim, a Western Regional Conference of the World Congress, next year. If you think this might be something you would like to attend, or if you have any interest in helping to organize this undertaking, why not give me a call or email me over the next few months, as we mull this over? Perhaps it's time once again for CSZ to lay out the welcome mat!

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.... **Aging** friends?

.... **Homebound**
family members of any age?

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September-Elul/Tishrei

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
				OCTOBER DEADLINE M			
				ARTICLES			To place or frosly
				Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to: brian.jersky @sonoma.edu. <i>No late submissions will be accepted.</i>			
3	3 Elul	4	Labor Day	4 Elul	5	5 Elul	6
• 7 pm - Newsletter Layout Meeting							
10	10 Elul	11		11 Elul	12	12 Elul	13
		• 2-3 pm - Healing Service with Ruach Ami • 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting			• 7:30 pm - Spiritual Preparation for the High Holidays class with Rabbi Angel		• 4 pm - Kadira
17	17 Elul	18		18 Elul	19	19 Elul	20
		• 7:30 pm - Great Books with Lisa Ochs			• 6:30 pm - Bikkur Cholim Committee Meeting		• 4 pm - Kadira
24	SF Pride Parade	24 Elul	25	25 Elul	26	26 Elul	27
• 10 am - CSZ Cemetery Visit		JGF November Deadline					• 4 pm - Kadira • 7 pm - News
1	2 Tishrei	2	3 Tishrei	3	4 Tishrei	4	
• Deadline - High Holiday services participation form due		• 7 pm - Newsletter Layout Meeting				• 4 pm - Kadira	

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need updates.

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SHABBAT	
MONDAY, AUGUST 28				1	1 Elul	2	Shabbat Shofetim 2 Elul
ADVERTISING				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:22 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Nicole Bloom 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by Ora Prochnick and Aaron Nacamura • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah 	
6 Elul	7	7 Elul		8	8 Elul	9	Shabbat Ki-Tetze 9 Elul
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:11 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Tiela Chalmers and Mike Goralsky 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah Opening Day • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 3 pm - Singing Havurah 	
13 Elul	14	14 Elul		15	15 Elul	16	Shabbat Ki-Tavo 16 Elul
	• 7:30 pm - Adult Education Committee Meeting			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:15 pm - Shabbat Family Dinner • 7 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Nina Wouk and Lyssa Friedman 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 4 pm - Baby Havdalah 	
20 Elul	21	21 Elul		22	22 Elul	23	Shabbat Nitzavim/Vayeilekh 23 Elul
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 pm - Tenderloin Senior Rosh Hashanah Luncheon • 6:50 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Michael Sarid 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 7 pm - Selichot Service and Study Session 	
27 Elul	28	28 Elul		29	Erev Rosh Hashanah 29 Elul	30	Rosh Hashanah 1 Tishrei
	• 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting			• See High Holiday Schedule		• See High Holiday Schedule	
5 Tishrei	5	6 Tishrei		6	7 Tishrei	7	Shabbat Chazon 8 Tishrei
				• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah 	

information.

The Only Gay Orthodox Minyan in the World

by David Shneer

During the last two weeks of July I was in New York completing my dissertation research on Soviet Yiddish culture. A close friend of mine in New York, and former Sha'ar Zahav regular, invited me to Shabbat dinner my first night in town with the Gay Orthodox Minyan of the Upper West Side. No, this is not an oxymoron, and yes, all of the 30 to 40 men who participate live within walking distance of each other on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Such a group could only exist in New York City where the sheer number of Jews and the pluralism of Jewish identities and practices make such niche groupings possible.

To understand why such a group exists, one has to understand the complexities of identity, which are never black and white, and are always shaped by childhood, family and community. Why, you might ask, would anyone who is gay want to associate himself with Orthodoxy, a movement that continues to maintain strict halachic prohibitions against same-sex acts, let alone same-sex relationships? So I posed this question to a number of the men in the group. A composite story of these men is something like this:

I was raised in Cleveland in an Orthodox family, and have been in New York for several years. After I came out, I went to Congregation Beth Simchat Torah [New York's Sha'ar Zahav], but found that their style of davening was not meaningful to me, and I was uncomfortable riding the subway to Shabbat services there. I prayed in Orthodox shuls near my apartment, and, of course, never came out to anyone there, but at least the atmosphere was familiar to me, and everyone welcomed me as one of their own. I don't consider myself a member of the Orthodox movement, because it is far too conservative, but I do observe Shabbat and Kashrut strictly, and I pray 3 times a day. When I heard about this group, I thought, at last, a way to unite my two identities.

Although each person's reasons for coming to the minyan are incredibly personal, the above story expresses an

continued on page 15

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
861-6932 (voice); 861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 575-4961
Education office, 575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

CSZ Staff:

Administrator, Lea Salem
- lsalem@shaarzahav.org
Program Director, Dahlia Gross
- cszdahlia@yahoo.com
Director of Children's Education, David Shneer
- educator@shaarzahav.org
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant, Melanie Kushnir
- mkushnir@shaarzahav.org
B'nai Mitzvah Mentorship Coordinator, Elise Fineberg
Jewish Family Educator, Jeni Markowitz

Officers:

President, David Gellman
(550-9449),
- sfgellman@aol.com or
- president@shaarzahav.org
Vice President, Lisa Katz
Vice President, Lyssa Friedman
Treasurer, James Carlson
Recorder, Nancy Kates

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)
Howard Herman
Howard Steiermann
Rose Katz
Laura Lowe
Drew Parker-Rose
Jacob Rothman
Jeffrey Sherman
Susan Unger
Ami Zusman

Committee Chairs:

<i>Adult Education</i> , Ron Edelman and Prudence Carter	and Michal Goralsky
<i>Archives</i> , open	<i>La'atid</i> , open
<i>Baby Chavurah</i> , open	<i>Leadership Development</i> , Paul Cohen
<i>Bequests and Donations</i> , Richard Inlander	<i>Library</i> , Joan Goldman
<i>Bikkur Cholim</i> , Allan Berenstein, Avraham Giannini, Eileen Levy, Rachel Maclachlan, Deborah Udin, Kyle West	<i>Long-Range Planning</i> , Allan Gold
<i>Book Group</i> , Mark Mackler	<i>Membership</i> , Joe Hample
<i>Building and Grounds</i> , Arthur Cohen	<i>Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign</i> , Ellie Cohen
<i>Bylaws</i> , Richard Inlander	<i>Newsletter</i> , Brian Jersky - brian.jersky@sonoma.edu
<i>Children's Education Board</i> , Liz Schaffer	<i>Past Presidents Council</i> , David Stein
<i>Cemetery</i> , Richard Inlander	<i>Personnel</i> , Lyssa Friedman
<i>Dor Rishon Brotherhood</i> , open	<i>Public Relations</i> , Sharyn Saslaffsky and Marc Wernick
<i>Dues Liaison</i> , open	<i>Ritual</i> , Nicole Bloom - bloomn@netscape.net
<i>East Bay Havurah</i> , Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler	<i>Social Action</i> , Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein
<i>Endowment Fund</i> , David Stein	<i>Toddler/Pre-school Havurah</i> , Deena Lahn
<i>Finance</i> , James Carlson	<i>UAHC National Liaison</i> , Mike Rankin
<i>Fine Arts</i> , Bob Gutterman	<i>UAHC Regional Liaison</i> , Daniel Chesir
<i>Fundraising</i> , Jacob Rothman	<i>WGLBJO Liaison</i> , David Gellman
<i>Gift Shop</i> , Jeff Rubin	<i>Women's Havurah</i> , open
<i>Israel Havurah</i> , Ron Lezell	

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Contributions

Adult Education Fund

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, in honor of Jeff Friedman's passing his PhD exams.

AIDS Fund

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Toby Jackson.

Mike Rankin, in memory of Frank.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Robert and Miriam Stoll, in appreciation of all the support provided to Phyllis Mintzer.

Allan Berenstein, to commemorate the yahrzeit of David Kotch.

Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of the birth of Noah Martin Friedlander.

Allan Berenstein, to commemorate the yahrzeit of Bill Schlichter.

Library Fund

Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleisher, in honor of Smokey Cormier's entrance into the covenant.

Neil Hart, in memory of Sara Feldman.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Arthur Cohen.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Harry Rubin.

Valerie Joseph, in honor of Howard Steiermann's receiving the Lloyd Dinkelspiel Young Leadership Award.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Perel Berenstein.

Jeffrey Sherman, in memory of Paul Nemrow.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Eleanor Biermann.

Jerry Rosenstein and the Lenway Family Trust

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Sadie Radetsky.

Prayerbook Fund

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Alan Harap.

David Wexler, in honor of the congregation.

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Carol and Russell Tat, in memory of Rose Irene Tat.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Howard Steiermann's receiving the Lloyd Dinkelspiel Young Leadership Award.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of David Kotch.

Dan Najjar

Sanford and Betty Weinberg, with prayers for Ron Miguel's speedy recovery.

Mike Abramson, in memory of Doug Porter.

Deborah Agre, in memory of Yetta Schleifer.

Edward Pollock.

Perry Paker, in memory of Yossie Paker.

Ellen Lewin and Liz Goodman, in memory of Beatrice Sheinman.

Emily and Rachael Reiley, in honor of the 35th wedding anniversary of Philip and Nancy Newfield.

Emily Newfield, in honor of the 80th birthday of Anne Guttman.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Sandy O'Neill's receiving her PhD.

James Carlson, in honor of Jeff Sherman's birthday.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Andrea Kretchmer and Paul Lutvak, in honor of Rabbi Angel's officiation at Penelope's baby naming.

Batya Kalis, in honor of Rose Katz's new home.

Sisterhood of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, in honor of Rabbi Camille Angel as she begins her new position with CSZ.

Steve Wiesner, in honor of Eugene Kohn's 85th birthday.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor of Rabbi Angel's arrival at CSZ.

Social Action Fund

Rick Crane, in memory of Rose Rudman.

Allan Berenstein, to commemorate the yahrzeit of Alex Konski.

Allan Berenstein, to commemorate the yahrzeit of Jay Feinstein.

General Fund

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Amy Scharf's receiving her PhD.

James Dronenburg.

Jeff Sherman, in honor of Howard Steiermann's receiving the Lloyd Dinkelspiel Young Leadership Award.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in honor of the marriage of Lisa Weiner and Lee Hayden.

Jeff Sherman, in memory of Dorothy Sanford.

John Arnold, in honor of Jon Funk's birthday.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Rose Katz's new home.

Jeffrey Sherman, in memory of Miriam Kemp.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Joseph Wiseman.

James Carlson, in honor of Jon Funk's birthday.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Brian Jersky's receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Judy and Jordan Bloom, in honor of the marriage of Nicole Bloom and Sue Swigart.

Liz Schaffer, in memory of Stanton Schaffer.

Torah Fund

Steve Weiner, in honor of Howard Steiermann's receiving the Lloyd Dinkelspiel Young Leadership award.

Laura Lowe, in honor of Dahlia Gross, Melanie Kushnir and Lea Salem.

Jerry Rosenstein.

Nancy Meyer, in memory of Nelly Levy Meyer.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in memory of Norma Faini-Pick.

Nina Wouk, in honor of David Gellman.

James Carlson, in memory of Jan Tuzzolino.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in honor of the marriage of Lisa Weiner and Lee Hayden.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in memory of Gary Felts.

Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in honor of the birth of Rafael Noble.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor of the commitment ceremony of Martin Spector and Alan Samuel.

Steve Elman, in memory of Hyman Elman.

Steven Gan.

Steven Gaynes, in memory of George Gaynes.

Walter and Ilse Steiermann, in honor of Howard's being elected to the CSZ Va'ad.

Robert K. Tat Oral History Fund

Carol and Russell Tat, in honor of Neil Hart and David Wasserman on their 100th.

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Pinat Mishpachah

Family Corner



Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat is for children aged 2-5, their friends and families. We come together the fourth Saturday of every month at 10:30 am for an age-appropriate service filled with art, storytelling, singing, prayer and movement! Please join us this month on Saturday, September 16 at 10:30 am.

Baby Havdalah Celebration

Join us for a post-naptime celebration of the close of Shabbat and the start of another week with our friends and families! This month's celebration will be held September 16 at 4 pm. Songs, puppets, bubbles, fingerplays and a Havdalah ceremony are not to be missed by the 24-month and under set! Call Jeni Markowitz (575-4962) for more info.

Join the Family Educator and Rabbi Angel for a:

Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, September 15 at 6 pm

CSZ will be hosting a Shabbat Family Dinner. All families are welcome to join us as we eat, sing, laugh and participate in a special family service together with our new rabbi, Camille Angel. Take a break from cooking and join us for a catered meal! Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Jeni Markowitz by September 12, (575-4962).

Children's High Holiday Programming:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be offering programming and Jewish childcare staffed by professional loving caretakers in conjunction with High Holiday services at the Herbst Theater. Childcare will be offered during Erev Rosh Hashanah and Rosh Hashanah morning, Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur morning and Neilah Services. The cost for each child per service is \$20 for non-members and \$15 for members. Kadimah students will not be charged for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning programs. As we cannot accommo-

date any children arriving without prior registration, we ask that you please send in the children's High Holiday registration form that was included in your High Holiday packet. Each session will be available for Kadimah-age-children (to age 13), children under five and babies. We ask that babies be able to sit up as we are not staffed for younger babies. Further information has been included in your High Holiday packet. Please feel free to call Jeni Markowitz or David Shneer at (575-4962) with any questions.

From the Family Educator:

Shalom! I hope all of you had joyous summers and are ready for the holidays as they quickly approach! There is much to look forward to in September, with the family program calendar bursting at the seams.

The babies and tots have been rocking out to their favorite Shabbat and Havdallah finger plays every fourth Saturday. We've added songs and dances, puppets and bubbles, and our giggles and wiggles are filling the oneg room every month!

High Holiday Children's Programs will again focus on the sweetness and inspiration the High Holidays can bring each family member. Babies, tots and Kadimah-age children will be given more opportunities for Jewish learning and expression than we've ever been able to provide before at High Holidays.

This year we'll explore the holiness of being a

family within our Sha'ar Zahav community. We'll also explore our Judaism with more programs that include the adults in children's lives.

This month also sees the start of many new programs, including the addition of a family class into Kadimah's curriculum. Our new Ge'evah (Pride) class will be an opportunity for parents of kindergarten and first graders to learn alongside their children – exploring Torah, holidays and rituals unique to our people and our community.

This month also marks the beginning of our monthly Family Shabbat Dinner Program on September 15. A "catered affair," giving families a break from cooking and a chance to shmooze, sing, laugh and learn together with Rabbi Angel and me.

Shana Tovah! May you have a sweet year together with those you love!

B'Shalom, Jeni Markowitz.

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Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Sponsoring the oneg Shabbat following services is a lovely way to commemorate a special occasion. Onegs can be sponsored in honor of a simcha, as a tribute to the memory of a loved one, or "just because." The cost is \$80-\$120 and we have a number of available dates in the coming months. Please call the CSZ office if you would like to inquire about sponsoring an oneg Shabbat on a specific date or would like more information.

Rosh Hashanah - Making Peace with The King

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through with the rhetoric of royalty. Even before the first day of the seventh month became identified as the beginning of the year, it was very likely celebrated as a ceremony of crowning the Almighty as King of the Universe. In the medieval world, a king was expected to be not only ruler, diplomat and general but also supreme court. Thus our inherited prayers present God as ruler and judge, decreeing life or death for each subject. What can we do with these resonant words, and with their unresonant metaphor?

Some congregations attempt rewriting: "Avinu, Malkeinu (our Father, our King)" becomes "Makoreinu, Shomreinu (our Source, our Guardian)." Others try to change the sense of the metaphor, from crowning a monarch to honoring the stage of birth called crowning. Rosh Hashanah is, after all, "yom harat olam," the birth-day of the world.

These interpretations, however, are based on the assumption that we can salvage at best a few esoteric ideas from the metaphor into which our ancestors packed so much meaning.

A metaphor that endures for centuries continually collects new resonances. The ancient Israelites had long conceived of God as King before the Torah was written down. That conception inspired the wording of the various codes of laws that make up much of the Torah. It pervades the psalms, which express the deeper meanings that kingship has held for generations of Jews.

For example, Psalm 29, traditionally sung when returning the Torah to the Ark on Shabbat, evokes massive destruction: The voice of God sounding as thunder over the water; storms; volcanos; fleeing animals casting out their unborn young.

But Psalm 29 does not use the royal metaphor for the forces of destruction. Only the final lines proclaim, "During the Flood God ruled; God will rule forever." Kingship means the power to set limits; divine kingship means setting limits to natural disaster. Kingship means the responsibility of protecting the nation. Psalm 29 closes with the assurance that, in times requiring strength, God will grant it, and

in orderly times God will bless the people with peace.

God, when inspiring storm, volcano, earthquake, is acting powerfully but not as King, responsible for human beings. As the prophet Elijah discovers in his final vision, not all that derives from God is a path to God. People are not meant to find God in the earthquake, the whirlwind or the fire. Elijah finds God in the low whispering voice of conscience. Psalm 29 finds a connection to God through public worship: In God's royal court, all proclaim "Glory."

In Psalm 29, divine kingship expresses God's responsibility for human life and the human ability to establish a connection with God. Whether through public ritual or in the quiet of our hearts, when we consciously choose a relationship with God, we can progress past knowing divine power only as a source of fear. By attaching ourselves, ritually and emotionally, to God, we secure our own connection to eternity, whether this means achieving a state of mystical unity with the divine, or building up the Jewish people and its enduring traditions.

While Psalm 29 deals with nature and worship, Psalm 146 considers the royal responsibility of establishing social justice, a responsibility fulfilled no more perfectly in the biblical world than in ours. Instead of impugning God's ability or interest, the psalm cautions, "Trust not princes, mortals who cannot save." Rather, it counsels, seek God's power in every act of justice. The climaxing verse, "Adonai shall reign forever, your God, Zion, through all generations," implicitly projects an imperfect world into the distant future. In a perfect world, after all, none of these acts would be needed. In our world, it is not perfection but the persistence of justice and compassion that signifies the eternity of God's rule.

Psalm 29 presents God the King as the approachable source of stability, shelter, strength and blessing. In Psalm 146, God the King rules only through our righteous acts. If wisdom begins with knowing human limits, it progresses by discovering and using human strengths. Whether or not the metaphor of God as King resonates for us, it has been used to express truths necessary to all of us as we once again enter the days of judgement.

With New Eyes *by Tory Weiser*

(Long-time CSZ members Tory Weiser and Robin Leonard are spending a yer in Jerusalem while Robin attends rabbinical school.)

Surprisingly, I did not immediately find a spiritual connection in Jerusalem, which I expected. I have had to look hard to find spiritual sustenance.

When I arrived in Jerusalem, I found it to be an unfriendly and drab sort of place. The only real interactions I had with people were when I spent time with Robin and her classmates. My first impression was of colorless and cold-as-stone people. It didn't help that the buildings of Jerusalem are made totally of Jerusalem stone, uniformly cream in color. I was used to San Francisco, where the people are friendly and color suffuses the city. I missed CSZ's Saturday morning services; the services here were unfamiliar at best. I felt bereft of many places and people that were emotionally and spiritually comforting to me.

Then I visited the Old City and since then have begun to see Jerusalem with new eyes, both physically and symbolically. When I first found myself walking in the footsteps of thousands of years of Jews, I was overwhelmed by the immense and spiritual continuity of the Jewish presence in Jerusalem. I felt that I was a very small part of something much larger than myself.

I have also begun to notice the efforts people have made to color their homes. On the route to Robin's school, there is a wall of bright green succulents with blazing passion pink flowers. Along another pathway there is a balcony with a deep green bush growing down the side. On each route we take-to the grocery store, pet store, bank or school-we pass several places where the flowers are abundant and beautiful. The greenery we keep finding replenishes my soul.

I have also come to realize that Israelis are friendly, but that idle conversation between strangers is not part of the culture. On the other hand, once you establish some sort of relationship, people go out of their way to be friendly. For example, Robin and I, with several of her classmates, walked to an apparently deserted small synagogue one Friday night

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Sept. Anniversaries

- 1 Jeffrey Rubin
and Frank Bush
- 4 Alan Michels
and Laureen Kim
- 13 Sara and Devra
Felder Noily
Randy Heilbrunn
and Lou Boudreau
- 18 Julie Dorf and
Jenni Olson
Alice Prussin and
K. Smokey Cormier
- 19 Richard Inlander
and Ben Schalit
- 30 Susan Unger
and Pam Erwin

Condolences

Suzanne London on the death
of her mother, Lois London.

Lonnie Weiss on the death of
her friend, Bob Eberly.

Rick Crane on the death of
his aunt, Rose Rudman.

**Ruth Rainero and Pieter
deHaan** on the death of their
friend, Lori Drinkwater.

Nathan and Jacob Robinson
on the death of their grand-
mother, Eleanor Mogle.

Batya Kalis on the death of
her brother, Jerome Kalis.

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

- 6/30 Oneg by **Friends of Rimma
Ashkinadze and Dana
Schneider** in honor of their
move to New York.
 - 6/30 Flowers by **Jeffrey Shuman** in
honor of Sydney and Helen
Shuman's 60th anniversary.
 - 7/7 Oneg by **Jonathan Funk and
John Arnold** in honor of Julius
and Pearl Funk's visit and Pearl's
birthday.
 - 7/7 Flowers by **James Carlson.**
 - 7/14 Oneg by **Dan Halpern** in loving
memory of his daughter, Sara
Halpern.
 - 7/21 Oneg by **Judith Holiber and
Kim Warsaw** in honor of Jacob
Peter Warsaw's welcome to the
community.
 - 7/28 Oneg by **Carol Cantwell and
Rachel Lanzerotti** in honor of
their aufruf.
 - 8/18 Flowers by **Jonathan Pannor
and Michael Watenpaugh** in
honor of welcoming Jacob
Reuben Nelson Pannor
Watenpaugh to the community.
 - 8/18 Oneg by **Virginia Donohue and
Mark Klaiman** in honor of the
welcoming of Liam Samuel,
Sydney Marie and Johanna Rose
Klaiman to the community.
- Special thanks to **David Maltz** who is
generously sponsoring flowers
for one service a month through
the calendar year.

Classifieds

HOUSESITTER. Going away in August,
September or October? We are available
to housesit and take excellent care of your
home, pets, and plants at no cost to you,
so that we may be near our San Francisco
family. Ten years experience. References
from Sha'ar Zahav members. Email jpsy-
fish22@aol.com or call 415/255-2497.

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I WANT TO BE A DAD: Successful,
Jewish (not religious but spiritual), gay,
happy, 38-year-old guy is on a search to
become a Dad. I was born with the pater-
nal instinct – and now I'm ready to share
my life with a child (and a Mom). I am
interested in a known donor or co-parent-
ing situation with a couple or single
woman. I am overflowing with love, have
great, healthy genes and a big smile. If you
are interested, you can call me at (415) 701-
1674. Let's talk. Thanks.

HOUSING WANTED IN SF:
CSZ's administrative assistant and fiance
seek affordable apartment in San Francisco.
We are responsible, have no pets, and would
be fabulous tenants. Please call Melanie in
the synagogue office at 415\861-6932 or
email at mkushnir@shaarzahav.org.

USED CAR WANTED in good working
order. If you have a car to sell please con-
tact Lea Salem in the CSZ office at 415/861-
6932 or lsalem@shaarzahav.org

THE MITZVAH OF EGG DONATION?
CSZ member hoping to have a second child
through egg donation. If you are in your
20s, Jewish and interested in talking, please
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offered. Confidentiality assured and
requested (415)364-3071, another-child@hotmail.com

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The Only Gay Orthodox Minyan in the World

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underlying challenge to Jewish community organizing – does being gay necessitate a liberal, egalitarian Jewish practice, as is done in all established GLBT synagogues? And does being Orthodox necessarily mean being straight, conservative and hostile to change? No one believes that any synagogue can serve every Jew's needs; and unfortunately, no GLBT synagogue can serve every GLBT Jew's needs.

What I discovered in my two Shabbat experiences with these incredibly thoughtful, insightful men is that, at the moment, they are in some way the true revolutionaries in American Judaism today. They are challenging all spectra of the Jewish rainbow. They are not accepted by the New York gay shul, for their ritual practices are too strict and unbending for the shul to be able to accommodate them. (They would need a glatt kosher kitchen, for example.) And the Orthodox shuls that many of them pray in would never permit the existence of such a group openly within its membership.

To complicate the picture even further, within this group of gay Orthodox men

of the Upper West Side of Manhattan, there is a diversity of politics and Jewish practices that they, as a group, try desperately to accommodate. Politically, the group ranges from leftist intellectual graduate students to men who have pictures of Reagan up on their bedroom walls, so they often do not talk about politics. And ritually, each person has a different level of kashrut observance and differing comfort levels with egalitarianism. In order to be as inclusive to the Orthodox gay men as possible, Shabbat dinner is catered and served on paper plates.

What they all share is the desire to find a way to be both openly gay men sharing their relationships with their community and, at the same time, ritually observant Jews. In fact, it is this topic that dominated conversation both at Shabbat dinner and Saturday afternoon lunch. They are together for the same reason that three men founded Sha'ar Zahav 23 years ago. Not finding a place in established Jewish institutions (GLBT shuls included), they come together to create a new community – a place in which no one sees their choices and identities as a paradox or an oxymoron.



September Birthdays

- 1 Smokey Cormier
Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli
- 2 Margaret Crow Rosenfeld
Jeff Friedman
Simma Lieberman
Jeff Nathanson
- 3 Nancy Halloran
- 7 Alvin Baum
Richard Brand
- 8 Mindy Bokser
Ray Feinstein Cagan
Barbara Leff
Ellen Press
- 9 Rachel Field
Jeremy Hoffman
Suzanne London
Edward Lopatin
Mark Weisman
- 10 Valerie Curtis
Sandy O'Neill
Maia Robinson
- 11 Lele Diamond
Lawrence Helman
- 12 Nicole Bloom
- 13 Eva Rosenbaum
- 15 Mark Oliver
- 19 Rebecca Goldfader
Lisa Hamburger
Sofia Klain-Chavez
Robert Tat
- 20 Elizabeth Katz
Mark Klaiman
Dorothy Querido
- 22 Raena Frohlich
Roslyn Fuerman
- 23 Marianne Ades
- 24 Andre Dombrowski
Mark Leno
- 26 Jeffrey Forman
Sophie Rinkoff-Murland
- 28 John Atteridge
Arthur Cohen
James Frazin
Ellen Goldstein
Daphne Stuart
- 29 Simon Glinsky
Judith Wolfe
- 30 Lisa Ochs

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throughout the centuries this one word has carried with it such force of meaning. Our father, Avraham Avinu, heard God's call and responded "Hineni" – Here I am – present and willing to serve You, Holy One. So too, from time immemorial our ancestors have answered the call. Traditionally, on Rosh Hashanah, traditionally, the Chazan makes final preparations amidst fear and trembling anxiousness and a real sense of morality and petitions God to spare the community punishment on account of the Chazan's personal failures and shortcomings. "Though I offer prayers on their behalf, please, God of Compassion, show mercy on this people..." It is a moment fraught with such heaviness. As a rabbi coming to stand before you, for many of you for the first time, I ask for your patience and generous spirit as we embrace this moment in gentleness and kindness.

Hineni – Here I am – ready and willing, excited and nervous, filled with awe and humility as I set forth to serve you in service to the Holy One. Towards this sacred endeavor, I pray

With New Eyes

continued from page 13

and arrived just before they were to have started services. After doublechecking that the time was correct we stood around waiting. Finally, an old man and woman showed up and unlocked the doors. Once inside we learned that the time for the start of the service was an approximation. Our group completed the minyan for the Kabbalat Shabbat service. Just before the Barchu (the formal start of the service), the service leader paused just in case more people arrived. During the break, he invited us to lead the rest of the service (we declined politely, not knowing the minhag). After we had all chatted for a time, the service continued. After the service was over, we were introduced to everyone and encouraged to come back, particularly on a Shabbat morning when their numbers increased substantially. That welcome and inclusion is what I have come to expect from CSZ and it was wonderful to find it in a Jerusalem synagogue. I feel at home.

that I might be able to lead in such a way as to earn your trust and gain your respect. I shall try my very best.

This month of Elul begins the Season of Returning – reviewing, refining our deepest hopes and clarifying our sincerest intentions. As Jews and seekers, we are invited to reflect on our own lives, our personal journeys – to recall the accomplishments and struggles, the challenges and moments of gratitude they contain.

We review our life stories at this time of year as part of a much larger process the rabbis referred to as teshuvah. teshuvah is the spiritual practice of redirecting out attitudes and actions. The teshuvah process begins with questions of self-reflection: How have I acted in the past year? When have I hurt? How have I hurt myself? teshuvah call us to see how our personal choices are responsible for the lives we have led. teshuvah reminds us that we do have power to make subtle, and often profound, adjustments in ourselves, our families and our communities. Ultimately, teshuvah leads to the question: What will be the responsibilities, the mitzvot, that I commit myself to in the coming year?

It is my hope that in the coming days each of us set aside some time to seriously contemplate these questions so that when the High Holidays arrive we will have prepared in such a way as to come even closer to the Holiness.

Hinenu – Here we are. Before ending, let me say, "may we journey together towards the wholeness we call peace."

Shalom Sha'ar Zahav. Hello.

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Members' Yahrzeits

- 1 John Golebowski
- 5 Bernard Pechter
- 15 David Pierce
- 18 Penny Dachinger
- 19 Gershon Lieberman
- 25 Jeffrey Lewis Cohen
- 27 Drew Siegel

Naches

To **Rachel Lanzerotti and Carol Cantwell** on their Aufruf and celebration of their love and community of support.

To **Joan Goldman** on her new position as assistant chief of branches for the San Francisco Public Library.

To **Alan Samuel and Martin Spector** on their commitment ceremony.

To **Riley Morgan** on being appointed to the San Francisco Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force.

To **Judith Holiber and Kim Warsaw** on Jacob Peter Warsaw's Welcome to the Community.

To **Virginia Donohue and Mark Klaiman** on Sydney Marie, Liam Samuel, and Johanna Rose's naming ceremony.

To **Jonathan Pannor and Michael Watenpugh** on the naming of Jacob Reuben Nelson Pannor Watenpugh.

To **Susan Lubeck and Richard Weiner** on the birth of their son, Raphael Nobel Lubeck-Weiner.

To **Susan Tubbesing** on the marriage of her daughter Laura Tubbesing to Brian McIver.

To **Steve Weiner** on the marriage of his daughter Lisa Weiner to Lee Hayden.

To **Ed Lopatin** on his new position as Director of Finance and Administration with San Francisco's Juvenile Probation Department.